

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 2, 5-6, 11-12, 14, 17, 19, and 23. Please amend claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 13, 18, and 24. Please add new claims 26-41. The claims are as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for tracking ~~physical computer-related~~ assets, the assets being moveable between a plurality of sites; the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a new asset of said assets at a central site, said assets being moveable between a plurality of sites only by being routed through said central site and not being moveable directly from a first site to a second site of the plurality of sites, each asset of said assets being independently selected from the group consisting of a computer hardware asset and a computer software asset;

assigning a unique identifier to each said asset;

recording the location of said asset with respect to said central site in [[a]] an electronic database; and on each movement of [[a]] said asset:

recording exit of the asset from the current site in said database;

recording the an intended destination site in said database; and

verifying entry of the asset at the destination site, being ~~the~~ a new current location,

in said database.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 2, comprising the further steps of:

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for each asset, recording configuration information relevant to that asset on said database;  
and  
on each configuration of a said asset at said central site, updating said configuration information on said database.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said configuration information of said assets ~~is chosen from the set including:~~

~~hardware configuration;~~

~~software configuration; and~~

comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, including the further step, occurring upon return of an asset to said central site, of determining whether said asset should be retained, and thus stored for further use, or withdrawn from use.

8. (Currently amended) A method for tracking physical computer-related assets, ~~the assets being movable only between a central site and a plurality of other sites,~~ the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a new asset of said assets at a central site, said assets being moveable between a plurality of sites only by being routed through said central site and not being moveable directly

from a first site to a second site of the plurality of sites, each asset of said assets being independently selected from the group consisting of a computer hardware asset and a computer software asset;

assigning a unique identifier to each said asset;

recording the location of said asset with respect to said central site in [[a]] an electronic database; and

recording configuration information relevant to each asset on said database; and  
on each movement of [[a]] said asset:

recording exit of the asset from the current site in said database;

recording the intended destination site in said database; and

verifying entry of the asset at the destination site, being the a new current location,  
in said database.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein, upon each reconfiguration of an asset at the central site, said configuration information is updated in said database.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said configuration information of said assets ~~is chosen from the set including:~~

~~hardware configuration;~~

comprises a software configuration; and

IP (Internet Protocol) address.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A tracking system for computer-related assets ~~that are movable between a plurality of sites~~, comprising:

an electronic database for storage of current and intended location information relating to said assets, said assets being moveable between a plurality of sites only by being routed through a central site and not being moveable directly from a first site to a second site of the plurality of sites, each asset of said assets being independently selected from the group consisting of a computer hardware asset and a computer software asset; and

a central receiving and storage site where new assets are received and stored, and where assets returning from other sites are stored, said central site having data entry means, linked to said database in which a unique identifier assigned to each said asset is stored and, upon a movement of a said asset, by which exit or entry of the asset is recorded such that both the respective current and intended location information is updated in said database.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The tracking system of claim 14, wherein said database stores, for each asset, configuration information relevant to that asset, and said data entry means further updates said database records upon each configuration of an asset.

16. (Original) The tracking system of claim 15, wherein said configuration information includes

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hardware configuration, software configuration and IP address.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A tracking system for computer-related assets ~~that are movable between a plurality of sites~~, comprising:

an electronic database for storage of current and intended location information relating to said assets, said assets being moveable between a plurality of sites only by being routed through a central site and not being moveable directly from a first site to a second site of the plurality of sites, each asset of said assets being independently selected from the group consisting of a computer hardware asset and a computer software asset; and

a central receiving and storage site where new assets are received and stored, and where assets returning from other sites are stored, said central site having data entry means, linked to said database in which a unique identifier assigned to each said asset and configuration information of each said asset is stored and, upon a movement of a said asset, by which exit or entry of the asset is recorded such that both the respective current and intended location information is updated in said database.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The tracking system of claim 19, further comprising indicia, containing said unique identifier, affixed to each said asset.

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21. (Original) The tracking system of claim 20, wherein said database stores, for each asset, configuration information relevant to that asset, and said data entry means further updates said database records upon each configuration of an asset.

22. (Original) The tracking system of claim 21, wherein said configuration information includes hardware configuration, software configuration and IP address.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A computer program product, carried on a storage medium, for the tracking of physical computer-related assets, between a central site and a plurality of other sites, comprising:

first program means to record a unique identifier for each said asset, said assets being moveable between said plurality of sites only by being routed through said central site and not being moveable directly from a first site to a second site of the plurality of sites, each asset of said assets being independently selected from the group consisting of a computer hardware asset and a computer software asset;

second program means to record the location of an asset;

third program means to record exit from a current site;

fourth program means to record an intended destination; and

fifth program means to verify entry of an asset being moved at the destination site, whereupon said second program means updates the current location of the asset.

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25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 24, further comprising:

sixth program means to record and update configuration information for each asset being tracked.

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer software.

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer hardware.

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein on each movement of said asset the method further comprises faxing a delivery summary from the central site to the intended destination for said asset prior to said exit of said asset from the central site, said delivery summary comprising advance notification that said asset is to be delivered to said intended destination.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein after arrival of said asset at said intended destination the method further comprises installing and testing said asset at said intended destination.

30. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer software.

31. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer

hardware.

32. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein on each movement of said asset the method further comprises faxing a delivery summary from the central site to the intended destination for said asset prior to said exit of said asset from the central site, said delivery summary comprising advance notification that said asset is to be delivered to said intended destination.

33. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein after arrival of said asset at said intended destination the method further comprises installing and testing said asset at said intended destination.

34. (New) The tracking system of claim 13, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer software.

35. (New) The tracking system of claim 13, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer hardware.

36. (New) The tracking system of claim 18, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer software.

37. (New) The tracking system of claim 18, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer hardware.

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38. (New) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer software.

39. (New) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer hardware.

40. (New) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein said configuration information of said assets comprises a software configuration.

41. (New) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein said configuration information of said assets comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address.